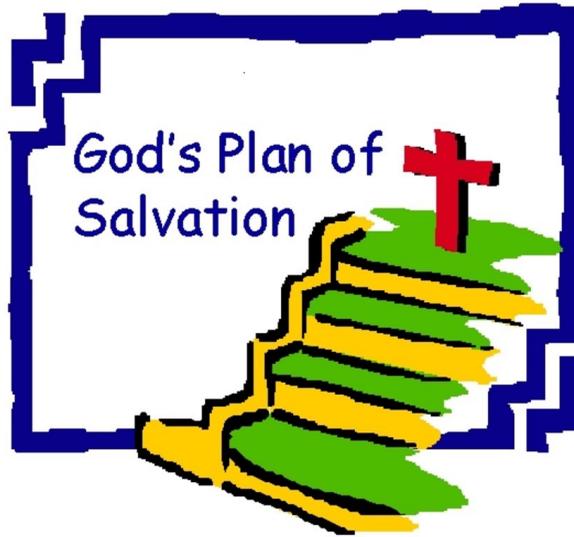




## St. John Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
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5:00 - Contemporary



***February 21, 2026***

# Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Contemporary Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service .

May God bless your worship with us today,  
*Paul Kruse, Pastor*

E-mail: [paul@stjohnhl.com](mailto:paul@stjohnhl.com)

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***Compelled by the Love of Christ to Joyfully Live,  
Learn, Share, and Serve'***

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of  
Christian faith in our community, to all generations,  
wherever they may be'*

**First Sunday in Lent  
Preludes**

**A Time of Preparation**

**"At The Cross (Love Ran Red)"**

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies,  
There's a place Where streams of grace flow deep and wide;  
Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, comes flowing down.

At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life.  
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.  
Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white.  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You Jesus.

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless.  
Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness;  
Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood comes flowing down.

At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life.  
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.  
Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white.  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You.

Here my hope is found, here on holy ground;  
Here I bow down, here I bow down.  
Here, arms open wide, here You saved my life;  
Here I bow down, here I bow.

At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life.  
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You.  
Where Your love ran red, and my sin washed white.  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You.  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.

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**Welcome, Sharing of the Peace and Call To Worship**

## Opening Song

## “O Praise The Name”

I cast my mind to Calvary  
where Jesus bled and died for me.  
I see His wounds, His hands His feet.  
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears,  
they laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone.  
Messiah still and all alone.

O praise the Name of the Lord our God.  
O praise His Name forevermore.  
For endless days we will sing Your praise.  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

Then on the third at break of dawn,  
The Son of Heaven rose again.  
O trampled death, where is your sting?  
The angels roar for Christ the King.

O praise the Name of the Lord our God.  
O praise His Name forevermore.  
For endless days we will sing Your praise.  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

He shall return in robes of white,  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.  
And I will rise among the saints,  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.

O praise the Name of the Lord our God.  
O praise His Name forevermore.  
For endless days we will sing Your praise.  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God. Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God.

## Confession and Forgiveness

### Song of Praise

### "Graves Into Gardens"

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade  
Are never enough

Then You came along and put me back together  
And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Oh there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You my weakness  
My failures and flaws Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend

'Cause the God of the mountain Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Oh there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing Nothing is better than You

Oh there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways

You're the only one who can You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can

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## First Reading

Genesis 3:1-21

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall

bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” <sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 27:15-26

<sup>15</sup> Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup> For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup> Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Children's Message

### Message Song

### “Jesus Paid It All”

And I hear the Savior say Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray Find in Me thine all in all

'Cause Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone

'Cause Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow  
He washed it white as snow He washed it white as snow

Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead  
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead  
Oh praise the One Who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead

Jesus

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### Message

### “Role Reversal”

### Offering

*Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.*



### Prayer of the Church

## Lord's Prayer

- ☒ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Sacrament

### The Words of Our Lord

### Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

*The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.11:26). Holy Communion is offered every week at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:*

- 1. Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
- 2. Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
- 3. Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
- 4. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
- 5. Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
- 6. Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly present and received in, with, and under the bread and wine (Matt.26:26-28)?*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises. Children and those who do not subscribe to these statements are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and should indicate this by keeping their hand folded.*

## Distribution Song

## “God Who Bleeds”

Oh my soul Who could ever know  
How deep my sins go  
Oh my soul All the gold  
On the earth could never pay  
For the debt that I have made On my soul  
Now I see just how great my need  
In His hands and in His feet  
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing  
All glory to the God Who bleeds  
Oh what love Knew I'd never have enough  
So He chose to pay in blood  
Oh what love I'm in awe  
Every earthly gain is lost  
At the wonder of the cross Oh what love  
Now I see just how great my need  
In His hands and in His feet  
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing  
All glory to the God Who bleeds  
See from His head His hands His feet  
Sorrow and love flow down for me  
Forever all my praise will be  
Glory to the God Who bleeds  
See from His head His hands His feet  
Sorrow and love flow down for me  
Forever all my praise will be  
Glory to the God Who bleeds  
Now I see just how great my need  
In His hands and in His feet  
Lamb of God oh my soul shall sing  
All glory to the God Who bleeds  
All glory to the God Who bleeds

## Blessing

- L** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give ✠ you peace.

**G** Amen.

## Sending Song

## “Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord Our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise  
With a mighty hand And outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise  
Sing praise sing praise  
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us Forever, and ever forever  
From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God We will carry on  
His love endures forever Sing praise sing praise  
Sing praise sing praise  
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us Forever and ever forever

### Acknowledgments

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